



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 16 April 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

For information, click here:
<http://www.dhs.gov>

Top Stories

- According to Bloomberg, General Motors Corp. is recalling 1.5 million vehicles in the United States to fix a glitch in an engine component that may cause oil to leak and lead to a fire. (See item [9](#))
- Radio Netherlands Worldwide reports that pirates off the coast of Somalia attacked another U.S.-flagged ship, the Liberty Sun, on Tuesday. Pirates also seized two more cargo vessels, the Greek-owned MV Irene E.M. and the Togo-registered MV. (See item [17](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *April 15, Reuters* – (International) **Shell declares force majeure on Nigeria Bonny exports.** Royal Dutch Shell said on April 15 that its Nigerian joint venture has declared force majeure on the country's Bonny Light crude oil exports in April and May. "The force majeure is as a result of the recent production shut-in from the fire on Bomu manifold on the Trans Niger Pipeline in Eastern operations," a Shell spokesman said. Shell said the joint venture extinguished the fire on April 14 and was working to repair

the line and restore production as soon as possible.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSLF52384120090415>

2. *April 14, Reuters* – (California) **Worker hurt at Exxon Torrance refinery.** A worker was seriously burned during work on a coke drum at the Exxon Mobil Corp Torrance, California, refinery over the weekend, sources familiar with refinery operations said on April 14. A spokeswoman for Exxon Mobil confirmed the accident occurred on April 11 but declined to discuss details other than to say the worker was hospitalized. Refinery production was not affected, the spokeswoman said. The worker was burned over 80 percent of his body when hot condensate was released during work on the coke drum, sources said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1451373420090414>

3. *April 14, Fort Worth Star-Telegram* – (Texas) **Texas Railroad Commission denies retroactive permission for Chesapeake gas well in Fort Worth.** Chesapeake Energy, by its own admission, violated provisions of a state-issued drilling permit when it extended a natural gas well in east Fort Worth much farther than authorized, putting the horizontal well bore too close to unleased property. The Oklahoma City-based producer, a major player in the Barnett Shale gas-drilling boom in North Texas, said it took those actions to maximize gas recovery and proceeded with drilling to maintain its leasing rights. It then sought retroactive approval from the Texas Railroad Commission. On April 14, the commission showed little sympathy for Chesapeake, voting 3-0 to support its staff's recommendation that the company be denied its request for an exception, which would have permitted it to proceed with drilling as it desired. The commission foiled Chesapeake's efforts by entering an order that the horizontal portion, or lateral, of the Ramey 1H well "be plugged back through the use of a retrievable bridge plug set 330 feet" from the first unleased tract. The commission's rules in the Barnett Shale require that producers keep well bores at least 330 feet from unleased property. Chesapeake drilled a 3,553-foot lateral for the east Fort Worth well in question, even though its permit was for a lateral of only 1,839 feet, commission examiners said. The shorter lateral would have maintained the required distance from unleased property. Chesapeake not only was denied the exception it sought, but could also face a fine if the commission undertakes an enforcement action.

Source: <http://www.star-telegram.com/business/story/1317333.html>

4. *April 13, Whittier Daily News* – (California) **Whittier residents angry over leak of oil pipeline.** A crude oil leak discovered early Monday morning near the site of an oil well that exploded and killed a man four years ago enraged nearby residents and closed off access to homes in north Whittier. Workers from several companies hired by the owners of an underground pipeline worked almost all day Monday in the street where Beverly Drive, Honolulu Terrace, and Pickering Avenue converge in a hilly area on the northwest part of the city. The leak was reported by the president of the Northwest Whittier Hills Homeowners Association. In the broken pipe were water, natural gas, and oil pumped from a nearby well, said a hazardous materials specialist of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. "There was a puddle of crude," he said. "It wasn't terribly large. It was 3 feet across or so. The thing that was most concerning were the bubbles.

That means there was a constant stream of high-pressure gas coming up through it.” Several attempts Monday to reach officials from the pipeline’s owner, Matrix Oil, were unsuccessful. Only about 3 gallons of oil spilled out onto the street, said the Whittier public works director. Repairs should be completed April 13, he said.

Source: http://www.whittierdailynews.com/news/ci_12134702

5. *April 13, Associated Press* – (Wyoming) **Sinclair refinery at half capacity.** The Sinclair refinery near Rawlins has been operating at half capacity following a fire last month that forced the shutdown of 1 catalytic cracking unit. A Sinclair spokesman said the refinery should be back to normal operations soon. At full capacity, the refinery can refine about 83,000 barrels of product per day. The temporary loss of 41,500 barrels per day represents about 24 percent of Wyoming’s refining capacity and is not expected to have much of an impact on the local oil and fuels market. The Sinclair Wyoming fire began March 29 with a small explosion, originating from a heater. No one was injured. Source: http://www.localnews8.com/Global/story.asp?S=10174030&nav=menu554_1_1
6. *April 13, Contra Costa Times* – (California) **I-680/Highway 4 connector cleared after rig crash, spill.** An overturned rig that blocked a freeway connector ramp between Interstate 680 and Highway 4 in Concord for most of early Monday morning has been cleared, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) said. The accident was reported about 4:45 a.m. on the connector between southbound I-680 and eastbound Highway 4, the CHP said. Initial investigation indicates that the driver of the Peterbilt tractor trailer may have taken the ramp too fast, a CHP officer said. The posted speed limit is 25 mph on the ramp. The driver was taken to a local hospital with minor injuries. The crash caused a spill of about 15 gallons of petroleum coke, a compound used in and produced by oil refining processes. The CHP officer said it is not hazardous and has been contained to the roadway. The ramp was cleared by about 8:35 a.m. Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_12131772

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Chemical Industry Sector

7. *April 15, Cape Cod Times* – (Massachusetts) **Emergency workers practice response to chemical spill.** With the Mirant Canal Generating Plant as a backdrop on April 14, emergency workers — clad in protective gear from head to foot — advanced on a rusty, black railroad tank car to participate in a monthly training drill in Sandwich. The “event” was a simulated leak on a railroad ammonia tanker, which arrive at the power plant on the Cape Cod Canal a couple of times a week. Typically, an ammonia tanker would be parked over a containment pit that would eliminate much of the danger if there was a spill, said a spokeswoman for Mirant, which hosted the drill. Ammonia is used at the plant to reduce toxic emissions from the plant’s smokestacks. For the drill, the response team, which is made up of 40 firefighters who serve 103 communities in southeastern Massachusetts, tackled a worst case scenario, according to the Yarmouth deputy fire chief. In the simulation, valves on the tanker were severed before or after it was parked over the containment area. The “damaged” tanker was half full and leaking 20 to 30 gallons of ammonia each minute. In this case, the team would have sprayed

foam on top of the liquid chemical to prevent vapors from spreading into the surrounding community.

Source:

<http://www.capecodonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090415/NEWS/904150320/-1/NEWSMAP>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

Nothing to report

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Critical Manufacturing

8. *April 14, Associated Press* – (National) **NTSB: Light sport plane can break apart in flight.** Safety officials urged the Federal Aviation Administration on April 14 to ground a type of light sport plane they said has broken apart in flight six times, killing 10 people since 2006. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) requested the agency prohibit further flight by the Zodiac CH-601XL, a single-engine, two-seat plane made from kits sold by Zenith Aircraft Co. of Mexico, Missouri. The NTSB said the most recent fatality occurred on March 3, when a CH-601XL broke apart while cruising near Antelope Island, Utah, killing the pilot. The board said the plane is susceptible to “aerodynamic flutter,” a phenomenon in which the surfaces of the plane can suddenly vibrate, and if unmitigated, break the plane apart. The CH-601XL was certified as a special light sport aircraft by the FAA in 2005, the NTSB said. This type of certification does not require that the FAA approve the airplane’s design. Instead, the airplane model is issued an airworthiness certificate if the manufacturer asserts that the plane meets industry-accepted design standards and has passed a series of ground and flight tests, the board said.

Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hmk1-mc7FUhunEDmZ2ub3g7d0ZewD97IHGU80>

9. *April 14, Bloomberg* – (National) **GM recalls 1.5 million cars for fire danger.** General Motors Corp. is recalling 1.5 million vehicles in the United States to fix a glitch in an engine component that may cause oil to leak and lead to a fire. The move includes certain Buick, Chevrolet, Oldsmobile and Pontiac cars from model years 1997 to 2003, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said on its Web site. Oil could drop on the exhaust manifold, posing a risk of engine fire. The recall for Detroit-based GM will begin in May, the agency said. The recall affects Buick Regals from model years 1997 to 2003; Chevrolet vehicles including 1998 and 1999 Lumina, 1998- to-2003 Monte Carlos and Impalas from model years 2000 to 2003; the 1998 and 1999 Oldsmobile Intrigue; and some Pontiac Grand Prix cars from model years 1997 to 2003. Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/headline/biz/6372737.html>

10. *April 14, WTMJ 620 Franklin* – (Wisconsin) **Franklin Harley plant evacuated after**

gas leak. We Energies said that the Harley-Davidson Plant in Franklin was evacuated after a gas leak. A spokesman says that an employee was using a forklift when it struck a gas line. The accident happened at about 5:40 a.m. on April 14. The plant was evacuated, the gas was turned off to the building, and the building has been vented out. Employees have now been allowed back into the plant.

Source: <http://www.620wtmj.com/news/local/42953427.html>

11. *April 13, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* – (Pennsylvania) **Coke oven malfunctions on Neville Island.** The ominous smoke plume that spewed Monday morning from a Neville Island factory was caused by a power outage during a coke burning operation, the Allegheny County Health Department said on April 15. Preliminary reports suggested there had been a fire at the Shenango Inc. plant on the island. The problem was that there was no fire generated during a normal, controlled venting process in the coke ovens at the plant, a Health Department spokesman said. Normally, the stacks of the ovens would burn flames fueling a boiler system that makes steam for an exhaust process. The exhaust system worked properly after power was restored at 7:52 a.m., and no measurable amounts of hydrogen sulfide were released into the air. The agency still is investigating why the back-up system did not work sooner to light the exhaust flares. Shenango Inc. produces coke, a product produced by baking coal that is, in turn, used to fuel ovens for steelmaking and other industrial uses.

Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09103/962500-100.stm>

See also:

http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/state/pennsylvania/20090413_ap_cokeovenonfireatplantjustwestofpittsburgh.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *April 14, Defense News* – (Missouri) **U.S. ammo plant to expand operations.** The U.S. Army's Lake City Ammo Plant in Independence, Missouri is modernizing its facilities and expanding its work to include a modified M118 sniper cartridge and a 20mm round at the facility, service and industry officials said. "Lake City is modernizing the line and machine controls, updating the control features on the machines and rebuilding key components in the plant," said the president of ATK Armament Systems, Utah. "We have equipment in this plant which is Vietnam- and WWII-era. We are adding digital control technology so we can improve the quality and the reliability of the program," he said. ATK began working with the Army and Pentagon on the Lake City Plant in 2000. Since that time, the facility has increased its production to 1.4 billion rounds per year, including .556, .762 and .50-cal. ammunition for the Department of Defense. The Lake City Plant is the Department of Defense's main source for ammunition. Some of the improvements being evaluated include making modifications to the M118 long-range sniper cartridge and expanding the capacity of .50-caliber ammunition.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=4039086&c=AME&s=LAN>

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. *April 15, WAPT 16 Jackson* – (Mississippi) **‘Phishy’ text messages seek bank info.** Scam artists are sending text messages to call Regions Bank about their account, a scam unlike any other the Attorney General’s Office has ever seen in Mississippi. The text messages are hitting phones around Jackson, saying consumers have a new voicemail from Regions Bank. The text gives recipients a number to call. A Regions Bank representative said anyone who gets a similar message should immediately contact the bank. “You would never see a financial institution contact a customer asking for personal or confidential information,” he said. This latest scam has put the consumer protection division of the Attorney General Office in uncharted territory. This is the first scam they have seen directed to cell phones.
Source: <http://www.wapt.com/news/19178963/detail.html>
14. *April 14, Bangor Daily News* – (Maine) **Phone scam tries to tap bank data.** Bangor Savings Bank on April 13 warned customers about an automated phone scam seeking bank account and check card information after the bank started receiving calls from customers. Bank customers reported they had received automated phone messages asking them to provide card and account numbers, personal identification numbers or security codes to reactivate cards or address other fictitious problems with their accounts. The scam using voice mail is known as “vishing.” The Bangor Savings Bank senior vice president said “dozens and dozens” of customers were calling the bank to report the automated messages. He estimated less than 5 percent of the callers were worried they had revealed private information. The bank has found no instances of fraud, the vice president added. The calls seemed to have started on April 12, the vice president said, and many were reported on April 13 when the bank’s offices opened. Noncustomers are receiving the same messages, according to a statement from the bank, indicating it is likely a mass dialing program designed to randomly hit Bangor Savings customers in local telephone exchanges. The bank reminded customers to protect themselves by never giving out account numbers or PINs over the phone to a caller claiming to be from the bank. The bank is investigating the scope and source of the scam.
Source: <http://www.bangordailynews.com/detail/103724.html>
15. *April 14, Evansville Courier and Press* – (National) **Banks taking steps to insure deposits beyond FDIC limits.** As concerns over the economy remain unabated, local banks are taking additional steps to protect customers’ money. First Security Bank, based in Owensboro, Kentucky, recently began offering the Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Service, which allows deposits of up to \$50 million to be insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. That amount far exceeds the basic \$250,000 the FDIC will cover for individual depositors. “You would be surprised by the number of customers who have a concern about their money and have more than the FDIC limit,” said the First Security president and chief executive officer. In many cases, those who want to avoid exceeding the coverage limits will break their deposits into smaller amounts and spread them among several financial institutions. First Security’s new service, often called CDARS, makes such a division no longer necessary, she said.

Besides First Security Bank, Evansville Commerce Bank in Indiana is the only local financial institution using the Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Service, according to the service's Web site. Fifth Third Bancorp, German American Bancorp, Integra Bancorp, Old National Bancorp and the Ohio Valley Financial Group said they have other means of insuring deposits greater than \$250,000. Perhaps one reason for the reluctance to use CDARS is the fees those taking part must pay.

Source: <http://www.courierpress.com/news/2009/apr/14/14web-FDIC/>

16. *April 14, WIRED* – (National) **PIN crackers nab Holy Grail of bank card security.** Hackers have crossed into new frontiers by devising sophisticated ways to steal large amounts of personal identification numbers, or PINs, protecting credit and debit cards, says an investigator. The attacks involve both unencrypted PINs and encrypted PINs that attackers have found a way to crack, according to the investigator behind a new report looking at the data breaches. The attacks, says the director of investigative response for Verizon Business, are behind some of the millions of dollars in fraudulent ATM withdrawals that have occurred around the United States. "We are seeing entirely new attacks that a year ago were thought to be only academically possible," says the director. Verizon Business released a report on April 15 that examines trends in security breaches. "What we see now is people going right to the source...and stealing the encrypted PIN blocks and using complex ways to un-encrypt the PIN blocks." The revelation is an indictment of one of the backbone security measures of U.S. consumer banking: PIN codes. In years past, attackers were forced to obtain PINs piecemeal through phishing attacks, or the use of skimmers and cameras installed on ATM and gas station card readers. Barring these techniques, it was believed that once a PIN was typed on a keypad and encrypted, it would traverse bank processing networks with complete safety, until it was decrypted and authenticated by a financial institution on the other side. But the new PIN-hacking techniques belie this theory, and threaten to destabilize the banking-system transaction process.

Source: <http://blog.wired.com/27bstroke6/2009/04/pins.html>

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Transportation Sector

17. *April 15, Radio Netherlands Worldwide* – (International) **Pirates step up attacks off Horn of Africa.** Pirates off the coast of Somalia have attacked yet another U.S.-flagged ship, the Liberty Sun. The attack took place late on April 14 and comes just days after one of the pirate leaders vowed revenge for the April 12 rescue operation to free the U.S. captain of the Maersk Alabama. Three pirates were killed in that operation. The Liberty Sun was travelling to Mombasa, Kenya, laden with food aid for a number of African nations. The pirates approached the ship and fired on it with automatic weapons and rockets. The crew immediately called for assistance from the U.S. Navy. The USS Bainbridge later arrived on the scene and helped to repel the attack. The Liberty Sun sustained minor damage and a fire broke out, which the crew was able to extinguish. Pirates operating off the Horn of Africa seem to be stepping up their attacks, and seized two more cargo vessels on April 14, the Greek-owned MV Irene E.M. and the Togo-registered MV Sea Horse. The pirates are currently holding at least 260 people hostage

on 19 vessels.

Source: <http://www.radionetherlands.nl/currentaffairs/region/africa/090415-somalia-pirates-us>

18. *April 15, Rock Hill Herald* – (South Carolina) **2 York County bridges rank low in SC.** York County is home to two of the 20 worst bridges in the state, according to a recent report by AAA Carolinas. But a state bridge maintenance official says only one of those “substandard” bridges needs to be replaced and the AAA method of ranking bridges is flawed. “It’s a very, very crude formula,” said a bridge maintenance engineer for the state Department of Transportation. “It gives a higher ranking to your high-volume bridges even though there might not be anything really wrong with them.” The Interstate 77 overpass at Carowinds Boulevard ranks 13th on the list, while the U.S. 21 bridge over the Catawba River holds the 18th spot. Nearly a quarter of the state’s bridges are rated substandard. Greenville County has the most substandard bridges of any county with 154, while Calhoun County has the fewest at one. York County has 88 — the fifth-highest total in the state. Lancaster County placed 72 substandard bridges on the list, while Chester County had 29. Substandard bridges fall into two categories: “structurally deficient” and “functionally obsolete.”

Source: <http://www.heraldonline.com/front/story/1268629.html>

19. *April 15, Press of Atlantic City* – (New Jersey) **Cargo ship, fishing boat collide off Cape May.** The U.S. Coast Guard is investigating a collision April 14 between a Maine fishing trawler and a British cargo ship off Cape May. The accident happened at 2:21 p.m. in the Atlantic Ocean about 47 miles southeast of Cape May when the Florida, a 965-foot container ship flying the British flag, apparently struck the stern of the Dictator, a 71-foot fishing boat based out of Southwest Harbor, Maine. Nobody aboard either vessel was injured, said a Coast Guard spokesman. The Coast Guard dispatched Cutter Dependable and Cutter Finback out of Cape May to render aid to both ships. The Finback was expected to tow the fishing vessel to port. It was expected to arrive in Cape May by morning, the spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/181/story/458883.html>

20. *April 15, USA Today* – (National) **\$250M effort to secure ports lags.** A six-year, \$250 million anti-terrorism effort to secure the nation’s ports is delayed for at least two more years because the government lacks machines to read fingerprint ID cards issued to more than 1 million workers. Truckers, deckhands, and others requiring access to secure areas at ports paid \$132 apiece for the high-tech ID cards that have their fingerprints embedded in them. But the Homeland Security Department, which is overseeing the program, says it still lacks fingerprint readers that can be used reliably in harsh weather. A senior lawmaker and a labor official say readers should have been installed at the nation’s seaports to prevent people from using fake IDs. Congress ordered the cards in late 2002 based on concerns that terrorists might try to blow up busy seaports or smuggle bombs, weapons or operatives into the country inside cargo containers. Homeland Security was supposed to issue orders this month requiring ports to install card-reading machines, under a 2006 law. The order will not be issued until late 2010 and it may exempt low-risk ports from having card readers, a Coast Guard commander

said.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/surveillance/2009-04-15-port-security_N.htm

21. *April 15, Bay City News* – (California) **Wind advisories issued for all Bay Area bridges.** A high-wind advisory issued by the California Highway Patrol remained in effect Wednesday morning for traffic on all Bay Area bridges. Motorists are cautioned to drive with care when navigating Bay Area bridges, including the Golden Gate Bridge; the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge; the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge; and the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge. Big-rig drivers are advised to use extreme caution. The warning was issued at around 12:30 a.m. and remained in effect at 7 a.m. High winds were expected throughout the day, and there was no immediate estimate as to when the advisory would be lifted.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/baycitynews/archive/2009/04/15/wind15.DTL>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

22. *April 15, Associated Press* – (Oklahoma) **Threatening letter sent to Grandfield school a hoax.** A White powder found in a threatening letter that was sent to the school district superintendent at Grandfield School in Oklahoma turned out to be harmless, but it triggered an emergency quarantine of some school and emergency workers, officials said. The substance inside the correspondence was baby powder, the superintendent said. The Dallas-Fort Worth branch of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service was dispatched to investigate the nature of the substance, which was discovered when the school secretary opened the mail on April 13. It was mailed from an unspecified state in the western United States, the sheriff said. For more than three hours, school administrators, the superintendent and some of his deputies were isolated in the teachers lounge. Students were not affected, the school superintendent added.

Source:

http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=11&articleid=20090415_11_0_GRANDF185397

23. *April 15, KJRH 2 Tulsa* – (Oklahoma) **Suspicious package at Okmulgee Social Security office.** The Okmulgee Police chief says a suspicious package was opened at the Social Security Office in Okmulgee on April 14. The police chief says an employee of the Social Security Office opened the package and discovered a suspicious powder inside. They notified authorities. Police and fire personnel responded and quarantined people in the area. The Muskogee Fire Department was requested to assist and responded with their hazmat team. Officials say hazmat crews responded to decontaminate people exposed and then rout them to the local hospital. There was no word on any serious injuries during the incident.

Source: <http://www.kjrh.com/content/news/breaking/story/Suspicious-package-at-Okmulgee-Social-Security/aL1jApp4s0yreK8gxaeLfA.csp>

Agriculture and Food Sector

24. *April 15, Associated Press* – (Kentucky) **Singapore bans Kentucky poultry after flu finding.** Singapore has banned poultry from Kentucky after an outbreak of bird flu at a chicken farm in the state. The southeast Asian nation's agri-food and veterinary authority said Wednesday that it banned the importation of all poultry, poultry products, and live ornamental birds from Kentucky. Only heat-processed poultry and egg products were excluded from the ban, the authority said in a statement. Avian influenza was detected earlier this month at Perdue Farms Inc. in Edmondson County, Kentucky. The state veterinarian said last week that the disease had not spread to nearby backyard poultry flocks. The Kentucky Department for Public Health said there is no evidence the disease has been transmitted from birds to humans.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2009/04/15/ap6292288.html>

25. *April 15, USAgNet* – (International) **Germany may ban genetically modified corn.** Germany announced plans on Tuesday to ban the only genetically modified strain of corn grown in the European Union, dealing a new blow to the American manufacturer, Monsanto, and raising the specter of trade tensions with the United States. The German agriculture minister said that the move was intended to protect the safety of consumers and the environment. But she underlined that it would not represent a blanket ban on genetically modified crops, reports the New York Times. "My decision is not a political decision, it's a decision based on the facts," said the agriculture minister. "I have come to the conclusion that there is a justifiable reason to believe that genetically modified maize of the type MON 810 presents a danger to the environment." A spokeswoman for Monsanto, said the corn — which is engineered to resist pests — had been approved for cultivation in Europe more than a decade ago and that no ill effects had been detected since then. Skepticism among consumers about the safety of genetically modified products and about their effect on the environment has made Europe one of the most difficult markets for Monsanto and for other makers of such crops. A particular headache for biotechnology companies is that countries retain the right to impose their own bans on cultivation of products approved by the European Union, while they examine new scientific findings. It can take years for a company to force those governments to lift such bans. The European Food Safety Authority currently is reviewing the Monsanto product because European Union consent to market the product has expired. Even so, EU rules allow the product to remain on the market during the authority's assessment.

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-national.php?Id=830&yr=2009>

26. *April 14, WQAD 8 Quad Cities* – (Illinois) **Owner says Galva explosion isn't linked to OSHA violations.** Investigators blame a malfunctioning machine for creating a spark that set off multiple dust explosions inside the All-Feed Processing and Packaging plant in Galva early Tuesday. Three employees were treated and released for various injuries from the blasts. The incident took place while the company faces thousands of dollars in

finances for 28 OSHA health and safety violations. The OSHA violations included everything from electrical to serious safety issues. Eight of the violations covered fire and explosions hazards. Some of them were termed “willful.” All-Feed originally faced \$226,000 in fines, but a settlement agreement with OSHA cut that figure to \$80,000. It was based on All-Feed’s willingness to make corrections. OSHA inspectors were back at the plant on Tuesday trying to determine if the explosions are linked to the violations issued in January. Citing the ongoing investigation, OSHA would not comment whether All-Feed had taken steps to correct the violations or if the company was jeopardizing its 50 workers. The company owner told News Eight that preliminary reports do not connect the explosions to previous violations. The latest OSHA investigation could take up to six months. The owner says it is too early to estimate damage, but he does plan to rebuild.

Source: <http://www.wqad.com/news/wqad-galva-osh-explosion-041409.0.4039115.story>

27. *April 13, Times-Union* – (Indiana) **Employee hurt in boiler blast.** An employee of Serenade Foods, Milford was airlifted to Parkview Hospital Sunday after he was struck in the head with a piece of metal after a boiler exploded. According to the communications manager for Maple Leaf Farms, which owns Serenade Foods, the employee was conducting routine maintenance on the boiler in a room in the facility when the incident occurred. Emergency personnel were said to have responded quickly to the incident that occurred just before 5 p.m. Sunday. The employee, whose name was not released, is expected to recover. Production at Serenade Foods was shut down Monday, and it was not known whether it would resume Tuesday.

Source:

<http://www.timesuniononline.com/main.asp?SectionID=2&SubSectionID=224&ArticleID=39503&TM=51266.19>

28. *April 13, WOAI 4 San Antonio* – (Texas) **Ammonia leak forces evacuations.** Hundreds of people on the East Side, San Antonio had to be evacuated from their homes late Sunday night because of an ammonia leak. Firefighters said the leak was from a beverage company near Gembler Road. Because of the lingering gas, about 200 people from that area were brought to the AT&T Center while the air was cleared. They were allowed to go back home around 3:00 a.m. No injuries were reported.

Source: http://www.woai.com/news/local/story/Ammonia-leak-forces-evacuations/lp_YFn2IkESA03mxOgXAtg.csp

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Water Sector

29. *April 14, Charlotte Observer* – (North Carolina) **Kannapolis reports sewage spill.** A buildup of grease caused a manhole to overflow earlier Tuesday in the Concord Lake basin, Kannapolis officials report. City officials did not specify where the overflow took place, but they said it is estimated that up to 6,000 gallons of sewage might have spilled

into the basin that flows into Concord Lake, a water source for the area. Authorities said late Tuesday morning that repairs had been made and added that no “significant” environmental damage had taken place. They said inspection of the system will continue, to make sure no damage was done.

Source: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/breaking/story/663654.html>

30. *April 14, Virginian-Pilot* – (Virginia) **Va. Beach commits to finding source of creek’s pollution.** Although water quality in the Lynnhaven River generally is improving, one tributary remains badly polluted. Bacteria levels in Mill Dam Creek, a 950-acre watershed in Great Neck that drains into Broad Bay, are off the charts. “This is some of the most degraded water quality in the Lynnhaven,” said the executive director of Lynnhaven River Now, an environmental organization that works to improve the Beach’s biggest river system. The first task is figuring out what is causing the problem. Failing sewer systems? Dog, duck or geese feces? Discharge from boats? Polluted stormwater runoff from shopping center parking lots? “It is probably all of the above to some extent,” said the city’s stormwater permit administrator. “We’re not going to find one smoking gun.” To determine if bacteria are coming from humans or animals, tests will look for substances in the bacteria that are uniquely human. For example, the presence of caffeine or estrogen in a strain would indicate a human source, he said. Scientists also are developing a way to get bacteria tests analyzed faster. Now, it takes 24 hours. If the turnaround time could be reduced to two hours, a heavy bacteria load, usually following rain, potentially could be traced to its source using multiple tests to track it.

Source: <http://hamptonroads.com/2009/04/va-beach-commits-finding-source-creeks-pollution>

31. *April 14, Louisville Courier-Journal* – (Kentucky) **Truck wash closed over pig waste.** The Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) has shut down a Butchertown business, alleging that it flushed waste from pig trucks into the sewer system without enough pre-treatment. Some of the waste likely got into nearby Beargrass Creek, said MSD’s executive director. MSD issued a notice of violation April 10 to Speedy Truck Wash that stated that an April 3 inspection found “a significant amount of muck,” including feces, bedding and feed, exposed to the elements and discharging to an open drain on the property. The business, in a neighborhood that has evolved into a hub for art galleries, condominiums and renovated homes, cleans trucks after drivers deliver pigs to the nearby Swift & Co. processing plant. Some neighborhood residents have complained that Swift has not done enough to curb odors, including those that come from trucks that deliver pigs to the plant. A Swift spokesman said the trucks are not operated by Swift. The owner of Speedy Truck Wash said she believed her business was operating properly and insisted an MSD inspector had previously told her so. She said the waste went into a pit underground that collected the solids, which she said were regularly scooped out and hauled away. MSD inspected the business the day after a Courier-Journal reporter saw a worker hosing down a pig truck outside the building, sending manure pouring into the drain. MSD said that because the drain leads to the city’s combined storm and sewer lines that are designed to overflow during rainy weather, the cleaning operation was likely polluting Beargrass Creek.

Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20090414/NEWS01/904140383>

32. *April 14, St. Augustine Record* – (Florida) **Seminole wins right to take St. Johns water.** The St. Johns Water Management Governing Board voted 5-4 on April 13 approving a permit to allow Seminole County to draw as much as 5.5 million gallons a day from the river as part of a 20-year plan. Seventy people with hometowns spanning the length of Florida addressed the board. The Seminole County attorney said a facility near DeLand that will take up the water will be operational within two years. The agreement calls for the use of about 800,000 gallons of river water a day for five years, then a maximum of 5.5 million gallons a day for the remainder of the agreement. St. Johns County, the City of Jacksonville, and the St. Johns Riverkeeper, a nonprofit advocacy group, opposed approval of the permit. An administrative law judge had recommended the permit's authorization. Board members in opposition said the district should wait for completion next year of a two-year National Institutes of Health study examining the impact of drawing a much larger amount of water from the river. Though the cap is set at 5.5 million gallons a day, opponents argue that the limit can be changed when the agreement is reviewed in 2013.

Source: http://www.staugustine.com/stories/041409/news_041409_018.shtml

33. *April 14, Las Vegas Review-Journal* – (Nevada) **Drought lingers: lake sinking near 1965 level.** By next month, the surface of Lake Meade is expected to sink below 1,100 feet above sea level for the first time since May 1965, according to the latest projections from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. And the decline will not stop there. By July, the reservoir on the Nevada-Arizona border is projected to shrink more than 13 feet from its current level of 1,105 feet above sea level. That is more than 8 feet lower than forecasters were predicting just one month ago. The news has water managers and marina operators scrambling to deal with the immediate effects and bracing for what could come next if drought conditions do not improve along the Colorado River. "We have to hope we have a decent spring. Otherwise we're headed for uncharted territory," said a spokesman for the Southern Nevada Water Authority. The lake is now 30 feet away from elevation 1,075, the trigger point for a federal shortage declaration that would force Nevada, Arizona and Mexico to reduce their combined water use by 400,000 acre-feet a year. Nevada's share would be 13,000 acre-feet, roughly the amount of water used each year by 26,000 average Las Vegas homes.

Source: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/42949442.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

34. *April 15, Indianapolis Star* – (Indiana) **Guilty plea in theft of 3 VA computers.** A Speedway, Indiana man has pleaded guilty to theft for stealing three computers from the Roudebush Veterans Affairs Medical Center. He was sentenced to 18 months' probation after entering the plea Tuesday in Marion Superior Court and agreed to supply information that will help authorities recover the computers. One of the missing computers contained names, birth dates and Social Security numbers of more than 11,000 veterans who were patients at the hospital. Veterans Affairs officials said there is

no indication the patients' information has been used. The FBI and the VA have posted a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the recovery of the computers. Two desktops and one laptop disappeared from the medical center on November 10, 2007. Source: <http://www.indystar.com/article/20090415/NEWS02/904150347>

35. *April 13, Scientific American* – (National) **Battling bioterror — a new test for ricin.** Scientists say they have developed a fast and super-sensitive new test for ricin, a poison found in castor beans that scientists say is a prime candidate for use in bioterrorism attacks. The new method, described in research recently published in *Analytical Chemistry*, takes only 3 minutes to detect ricin and is 100 to 1,000 times more sensitive than tests currently available, according to a study co-author, a biochemist at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University in the Bronx, New York. The new test could be packaged in a small, portable kit, he says. “We patented it [and] we hope some company or the Army will take up this method and use it,” he says. He says the test, which can detect one billionth of a gram of ricin, could potentially help minimize the number of false alarms. He says that it is too early to say how often the new test yields false positives, but he is hopeful they can be minimized by carefully controlling the conditions under which it is run. Source: <http://www.sciam.com/blog/60-second-science/post.cfm?id=battling-bioterror--a-new-test-for-2009-04-13>

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Government Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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Emergency Services Sector

36. *April 15, Hanover Evening Sun* – (Pennsylvania) **911 radios improve.** Compared to a few months ago, local police departments say they have seen marked improvement in the performance of York County's new digital 911 radio system. But there are a few glitches, and local fire departments are still waiting for upgrades to their equipment before being put on the system. York County's Department of Emergency Services executive director said workers from Tyco Electronics, and radio system manufacturer M/A-COM, have been working with police departments throughout the county to reprogram radios and get the system “stable.” Tuesday started a 30-day test period during which the \$36 million system is expected to work as it is supposed to. If there are any major glitches, the companies come out to fix the problem, and the test period starts over, he said. The county, police departments, Tyco and M/A-COM are checking the operability of hand-held units, mobile units to be installed in vehicles and base station units to be installed in various police stations. Source: http://www.eveningsun.com/ci_12141586

37. *April 14, Government Technology* – (Louisiana) **Fusion centers major target of**

Louisiana Homeland Security grants. Louisiana's governor last week announced \$18.8 million in homeland security grant funding for urban search and rescue teams, additional fusion centers and technology upgrades for the state's corrections department. "Statistics show that 90 percent of all victims of disasters are saved within the first few hours of an incident," he said. But currently, the closest urban search and rescue team is in College Station, Texas, and it could take up to 20 hours for them to mobilize and respond to an incident in Louisiana. "By the Governor funding the establishment of these teams in Louisiana, we will now have a much quicker and cost effective response, which could mean the difference between life and death in a state prone to hurricanes and where a homeland security incident is possible given the state's critical infrastructure and urban areas," the director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) said. GOHSEP plans to award \$1.32 million to three regions of the state to create the Statewide Urban Search and Rescue Task Force System.

Source: <http://www.govtech.com/gt/639231?topic=117680>

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Information Technology

38. *April 15, IDG News Service* – (International) **Microsoft fixes Excel, carpet-bombing security flaws.** Microsoft has fixed critical flaws in its Windows, Office, and Internet Explorer software in the company's largest set of security patches this year. The updates fix a number of well-known problems in the company's software, including vulnerabilities in Excel and the WordPad text converter that have been exploited by attackers in a small number of online attacks. A few other known bugs were also fixed, including some issues in Windows and Internet Explorer that could be used to pull off a so-called "carpet-bombing" attack and Windows flaws that could give attackers extra privileges on a Windows machine. All told, Microsoft released eight software updates, fixing dozens of bugs in its products. Five of the updates are rated critical by Microsoft, meaning that they fix flaws that could be exploited by attackers to run unauthorized software on a computer. The patch for Internet Explorer, always a favorite target of attack by hackers, and another critical fix for Microsoft's DirectX multimedia software should also be given top priority, the chief technology officer with Shavlik Technologies says. Another critical patch is in the HTTP software used by Windows computers to connect to Web sites. This update is rated critical for all supported versions of Windows. Microsoft also fixed a long-standing Internet Information Services (IIS) issue that could allow an attacker to get unauthorized privileges on a computer. This kind of attack, called "token kidnapping," was first reported more than a year ago by the CEO of security research firm Argeniss.

Source: <http://www.computingsa.co.za/article.aspx?id=980910>

39. *April 15, The H* – (International) **Critical vulnerability in Divx Web player closed.** Users with older versions of the DivX software are advised to update to the latest version in order to patch a critical security vulnerability. According to the security service provider Secunia, older versions of the DivX Web Player, which allows users to play videos directly in their browser, contain an error in the processing of Stream

Format chunks that can be exploited to cause a heap-based buffer overflow. A successful attack could lead to the execution of arbitrary code. For an attack to be successful, an attacker must convince a user to open a specially crafted DivX file or web page stream. Version 1.4.3.4 fixes the problem and is included in a bundle update. According to Secunia, the update has been available for download since mid-March. It is unclear as to why the report has only now been published. Users are advised to run an update manager tool to make sure that their systems are always up-to-date with the newest versions of installed software. Applications such as Secunia's Personal Software Inspector (PSI) or FileHippo's Update Checker are available for Windows-based systems to help ensure that installed software is always patched.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/Critical-vulnerability-in-Divx-Web-player-closed--/news/113072>

40. *April 15, Network World* – (International) **HP Software bolsters application-scanning products.** HP Software on April 15 updated its security products to help customers scan Web-based applications for vulnerabilities. On display at HP's booth during next week's RSA Conference in San Francisco, WebInspect 8.0, HP's Web-application scanning tool, has been upgraded to support vulnerability scans of Adobe Flash and Web 2.0 technologies. The server-based HP Assessment Management Platform 8.0 is a vulnerability-assessment tool for managing multiple scanning tools, including WebInspect 8.0, and generating audit and remediation reports for an enterprise network. The HP vulnerability-assessment tools are typically used in application-program development to catch programming errors, such as cross-site scripting, which inadvertently create vulnerabilities in applications that hackers can exploit, says the HP Software product manager for enterprise solutions. With the latest version of the tools, "we are delving into Flash and de-compiling it," the product manager says. "On the JavaScript side, we are executing it as the user world. We can test things before production or in production for quality assurance." If the WebInspect 8.0 tool identifies problems in JavaScript, for example, it will flag it and make a recommendation for remediation.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2009/041509-hp-software.html>

41. *April 15, Enterprise Security Today* – (National) **U.S. mulls stiffer sentences for common net proxies.** "Proxy" servers are an everyday part of Internet surfing. But using one in a crime could soon lead to more time in prison. A key vote on April 15 on new federal sentencing guidelines would classify the use of proxies as evidence of "sophistication," increasing sentences by about 25 percent, which could mean years or even decades longer behind bars, depending on the crime. It is akin to judges handing down stiffer sentences when a gun is used in a robbery. Yet digital-rights advocates are worried. Although they are not absolving criminals, they complain that the proposal is so broad, it could lead to unnecessarily harsh sentences for tech neophytes who did not know they were using proxies in the first place or who were simply engaging in a practice often encouraged as a safer way of using the Internet. "It sends a bad message about protecting your own privacy," said the general counsel for the Center for Democracy and Technology. "This is the government saying, 'If you take normal steps to protect your privacy, we are going to view you as a more sophisticated criminal.'"

Proxies are computers that sit between a user and the Internet at large. They can be used to disguise that person's numeric Internet Protocol address, which is akin to a street address for a computer. Proxies are scattered around the Internet and are routinely used to relay Internet traffic, often unbeknownst to Internet users. Corporations routinely use proxies to let their employees work from home; virtual private networks, or VPNs, make traffic look like it is coming from within the company's internal network, thus bypassing its security firewalls. Cell phone providers use proxies to connect devices to the Internet, while people in repressive countries use them to circumvent Internet censors. Internet service providers also use proxies to speed traffic, by storing copies of frequently accessed Web pages locally, avoiding the need for users to reach out to the original site every time. But such anonymity proxies can be used for both good and bad, and a debate is stirring as the government proposes to impose stiffer penalties for crimes committed by someone who had been using those and other proxies.

Source: http://www.enterprise-security-today.com/story.xhtml?story_id=65941&page=1

42. *April 14, SearchSecurity.com* – (International) **Oracle issues 43 updates, fixes serious database flaws.** Oracle Corp. issued 43 fixes on April 14 as part of its quarterly Critical Patch Update, repairing flaws in its database management system, application server and application product lines. The Oracle CPU contained patches addressing 16 database flaws affecting Oracle Database 11g, 10g and 9i. A flaw in the Oracle Resource Manager, which allocates CPU resources, has the highest Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS) score (9). It could allow an attacker to gain complete control of a database. The vulnerability affects Oracle Database Server 9.2.0.8 and 9.2.0.8DV, Oracle said. The chief technology officer of database and application security vendor Imperva Inc. said the flaw is likely a SQL injection vulnerability within a database row or statement trigger. The vulnerability with the second highest CVSS score (7.1) is less severe since it requires full database privileges, including the ability to import databases, he said. Oracle patched 12 flaws in Oracle Application Server 10g. The vulnerability with the highest CVSS base score (7.5) affects the OPMN service, which monitors and controls application server components and instances. It can be exploited by an attacker to gain partial control of the application server and access sensitive information. Oracle continues to release highly critical patches for its BEA product line. Two of the eight security fixes released have a CVSS base score of 10. One of the serious flaws is within Oracle JRockit, a Java development and runtime platform used to troubleshoot Java applications. The other flaw is within the BEA WebLogic server itself. Both flaws could be exploited remotely by an attacker, require no authentication and could give them complete access to the server to steal sensitive information.

Source:

http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/news/article/0,289142,sid14_gci1353795,00.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

43. *April 15, KNBC 4 Los Angeles* – (California) **NBC4 transmission tower hit by power failure.** A power failure at the NBC4 transmitter on Mt. Wilson the night of April 14 caused a 3-hour blackout for people using new digital antennas. People using cable, satellite or analog antennas to watch NBC4 programming were not affected. The outage started about halfway through NBC Nightly News. KNBC was back on the digital airwaves shortly before 10 p.m.

Source: <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/NBC4-Transmission-Tower-Hit-by-Power-Failure.html>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

44. *April 15, ESPN* – (National) **Study finds health hazards at rinks.** Indoor ice arenas with poorly maintained ice-resurfacing machines and inadequate ventilation are creating potentially dangerous health hazards for players, coaches, fans and workers at rinks in several states around the country, according to an investigation by ESPN's "E:60." In the past six months, nearly 200 people have been sickened by carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide or ultrafine particles emitted from poorly maintained ice resurfacers at indoor ice arenas. "E:60" conducted its own series of tests at 34 rinks in 14 states. Of the 28 rinks that used propane or natural gas resurfacers, nearly one-third were found to have dangerous levels of carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide or ultrafine particles. One of those rinks was in Tampa, Florida, where the East Lake High School hockey team took the ice in January for a practice at the Tampa Bay Skating Academy. Players struggled to breathe during practice and as the night wore on, their symptoms worsened. Ice-resurfacing machines that run either on propane or natural gas are safe when properly maintained. But poorly maintained machines can release high levels of emissions that are even more dangerous in rinks with poor ventilation. Last December, carbon monoxide poisoning at a rink near Indianapolis sent 10 people to the hospital. In January, firefighters evacuated a rink outside Denver when carbon monoxide levels reached 10 times what is considered dangerous. In March, fumes from a poorly maintained ice resurfacer sent 100 people to the hospital and forced four teams to withdraw from a college tournament outside Cleveland. Minnesota, Massachusetts and Rhode Island are the only states with laws regulating air quality at indoor ice rinks. USA Hockey, with nearly 600,000 youth and adult hockey members, has no direct control over the nation's 2,000 rinks. Following the "E:60" investigation, USA Hockey told "E:60" that the organization had sent letters to the governors of the other 47 states urging them to adopt similar legislation.

Source: <http://sports.espn.go.com/espn/e60/news/story?id=4068448>

45. *April 15, amNY.com* – (New York) **Long Island City art building remains vacated.** A Long Island City building remained vacated Monday after an outdoor staircase collapsed

Friday, burying a woman under 20 feet of rubble. A 37 year-old woman was leaving her studio at 5 Pointz, a graffiti-covered outdoor art space at 45-48 Davis Street, when the stairs gave way. She remained in critical condition Monday afternoon at Bellevue Hospital Center. The city's Department of Buildings issued four violations to the property's owner, G&M Realty, for failure to maintain that structure and another adjacent building and for housing art studios on some floors without a valid certificate of occupancy. Each violation carries a maximum \$25,000 fine. Before the vacate order can be lifted, the building's owner must construct sidewalk sheds on all sides of the building and remove the debris from the accident.

Source:

http://weblogs.amny.com/entertainment/urbanite/blog/2009/04/long_island_city_art_building.html

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

46. *April 15, Public New Service* – (Pennsylvania) **A push for more protections for state's only national forest.** Wilderness areas in Pennsylvania's only national forest did not get the added protections some in other states did under the recently passed package of wilderness bills, but environmentalists in the Keystone State are not waving the white flag yet. The Allegheny National Forest makes up more than 500,000 acres, but the executive director of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness says only a small amount of that land is protected from logging, oil drilling and other development. "There are only two wilderness areas, which amount to less than two percent. Across the country, by comparison, about 18 percent of all national forest land is preserved as wilderness." The executive director says his group's plan will mean more open spaces for the wildlife that call the Allegheny home. The plan proposed by the group would add protection for eight other wilderness areas totaling more than 54,000 acres. Timber and oil interests that work in the Allegheny National Forest say any blueprint for the land needs to bear in mind the financial impact on people who live in the area and rely on the money drawn from the forest's resources.

Source: <http://www.publicnewsservice.org/index.php?/content/article/8608-1>

47. *April 13, Associated Press* – (Idaho) **Simplot mine expansion, seen as Yellowstone threat, blocked by court.** A federal appeals court has temporarily halted the expansion of a phosphate mine in southeastern Idaho that opponents say would damage road-less areas near Yellowstone National Park. A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeal found that a U.S. District Judge failed to consider whether logging and topsoil removal during expansion of the J.R. Simplot Co.-owned Smoky Canyon phosphate mine would cause irreparable harm to the site. The mine has supplied about 1.5 million tons of phosphate ore a year to the company's Don plant in Pocatello, where it is converted into fertilizer. But company officials have said the current site will likely be played out by 2010. Last June the former Presidential Administration approved a plan to allow the mine to expand into road-less areas of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, about 100 miles south of Yellowstone. The Greater Yellowstone Coalition sued last fall, contending the mine has historically sent large amounts of naturally occurring selenium

into local waters, which has poisoned or caused birth defects in wildlife and livestock. The environmental groups say expanding the mine would create a major environmental disturbance and that the decision has not had adequate scientific review.

Source:

http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2009/04/simplot_mine_expansion_seen_as.html

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Dams Sector

48. *April 14, Daily Iowan* – (Iowa) **River model clears cofferdam in flood.** A new model of the Iowa River reveals that a cofferdam did not cause as much flooding last summer as many originally thought. Some residents of the upstream Idyllwild neighborhood, located northwest of Terrell Mill Park, blamed elevated water levels on the cofferdam, a temporary structure that acts as a barrier for a construction site on the riverbed. But the new model showed the UI cofferdam raised water upstream near the Park Road Bridge by only 4 inches during the June 2008 flood, which is less than officials originally thought. The river model, unveiled April 10 by UI officials, is a computer program that accurately describes the shapes of the land, river channel, and structures such as buildings, bridges, and dams. It is capable of determining how high water levels would get at any given location for a certain flow rate, said a psychology professor who is a co-head of the UI Flood Mitigation Task Force.

Source: <http://www.dailyiowan.com/2009/04/14/Metro/11029.html>

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